Cambridgeshire Broadcasts by Mike Petty. 2nd July 2022

A selection of audio recordings of broadcasts on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire featuring the involvement of Mike Petty. Uploaded to Internet Archive
Includes: Cambridgeshire Echoes, Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook 1838, Time Was, The Cambridgeshire Collection and Mike Petty, Fen Floods of 1947, Off the Beaten Track and other programmes.

Cambridgeshire Echoes

A series of (usually) 15-minute readings by Mike Petty broadcast on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's 'Arts and Entertainment' programme with Mandy Morton

John O'Donague: An Irishman at Witchford Airfield
Memories of constructing Witchford Airfield and visiting Ely Kings' School, WWII
1994
https://archive.org/details/irishman-at-witchford-airfield

Thomas Cross: Autobiography of a stagecoach man. 1904
An account of driving a stagecoach from London to King's Lynn.
1996
https://archive.org/details/cross-stagecoachman.

Stagecoach travel account of stagecoaches, their routes, drivers, incidents with Edmund Ward's account of a journey from London to Cambridge.
December 1994
https://archive.org/details/stagecoach-travel-mpc-49l

Andrew Percival's memories of Peterborough from 1833
Includes memories of tolls for walking on pavements, breweries, sedan chairs, tramps, Cattle Market, Wednesday Market and postage. A talk given in 1883, published in Peterborough Advertiser, September 1905.
20th November 1994
https://archive.org/details/percival-peterborough, https://archive.org/details/percivals-peterborough-memories-1833-mpc-49

Peter Platitude: The Cambridgeshire County Ball at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, 1840
'Peter Platitude', an Undergraduate, describes a visit to a County Ball at the Lion Hotel, Petty Cury: the music, the food and other attendees, including a Fenland family, in a letter to his brother in 1840
17th September 1995
https://archive.org/details/county-ball-at-the-lion-hotel-cambridge-1840

Henry Pamment's memories of Linton in the 1830s, of travelling to London in an unsuccessful search to make a fortune and returning to eke out a hard living in his native village.
25th January & 5th February 1995
https://archive.org/details/pamment-linton-and-london-memories-1830s

Romilly's Cambridge Diary 1843: extracts including aspects of University life in Cambridge, a drive to Impington, a violent storm, journey to Wisbech by coach and aspects of life including Circulating Library and new chapel, Leverington, journey to London and Brighton where sees Queen Victoria, Prince Albert in Cambridge etc
April 1996
https://archive.org/details/romillys-cambridge-diary-mpc-49

Fenland Child labour gangs.
An account of children working in the fenland gangs as reported to a Government Inquiry, 1866
April 1996
https://archive.org/details/fenland-child-labour-gangs-mpc-25

Samuel Newton's diary (1662-1717), 1890
Extracts from Samuel Newton's diary includes Proclamation of King Charles II in Cambridge, Judge and Assize including man crushed to death, murder. International tension, press gangs, Plague, Great Fire of London, becomes Alderman, Stourbridge Fair proclamation, death of his son, visit of Prince of Orange, theft of Crown Jewels, Charles II visits Cambridge, Newmarket fire whilst King there, Death of Charles II, James II proclaimed, Newton removed from Corporation, Dutch landed at Dartmouth, rumour that Irish had burnt Bedford & were heading to Cambridge, King James flees, Prince of Orange proclamation & visits Cambridge, dies; Queen Anne proclaimed and visits; Newton becomes frail; eclipse of sun
June 1995
https://archive.org/details/samuel-newtons-diary-1662-1717

Henry Wale: My grandfather's pocket-book … 1701-1796. 1883
Fascinating reminiscences of life around Shelford as described a notebook found in the Wale family vault at Shelford compiled by a well-to-do gentleman who is commemorated by an obelisk at Harston. It includes his experiences as a trader in Russia, his return to Shelford, family difficulties including details of a marriage settlement to daughter who beaks an engagement to marry a Pemberton, the appointment and problems of servants including his wife who was convicted of assaulting a maid and a coachman who attacks him.
June 1995
https://archive.org/details/wale-grandfathers-pocket-book

Emily Wesley: Stretham notebook, 1881-1892:
memories of home life at The Grove, May Day. The Feast, Horkey, reaping corn, tramps. Lee the brush lady with ear-rings made by Lt Thetford cripple, Sarah Wright and other characters, Donkey Riding.
June 1996
https://archive.org/details/emily-wesleys-stretham-memories

Cherry Hinton Chronicle: extracts from 19th-century newspapers; includes body-snatching and an illicit still
12th November 1995
https://archive.org/details/cherry-hinton-chronicle.

John Wisken: A day's work in Michaelmas term
A description in verse of the life of a scullion of Christ's College Cambridge, describing the work of a kitchen porter in the 1840s.
https://archive.org/details/john-wiskin-poem-on-the-work-of-a-kitchen-porter-at-christs-college-cambridge-in-the-1840s

W.H. Barrett: A sermon on skating delivered in the Steam Engine Primitive Chapel,
This amusing sermon delivered to a rural congregation by a fenland preacher sought to prove that Job was a skating man
7th January 1996
https://archive.org/details/sermon-on-skating

F.J. Gardiner: Village life in the Fens. 1908
Extract from a novel including description of a statue fair at Wisbech
8th October 1995
https://archive.org/details/village-life-in-the-fens

Morning Chronicle: Dens and Traditions of Barnwell; description of squalor of properties in the East Road area of Cambridge 1853
15 October 1995
https://archive.org/details/dens-and-traditions-of-barnwell-1853

Morning Chronicle: Ely, Welches Dam & Witchford: description of squalid condition of properties and their occupants, 1850
22 October 1995
https://archive.org/details/morning-chronicle-ely-and-villages-1850

Zacharias Von Uffenbach: Notes on a visit to Cambridge in 1710 with special reference to the condition of its libraries and archives,
5th November 1995
https://archive.org/details/uffenbachs-visit-to-cambridge-1710

Charles Blinch: Diaries of Stretham 1860s: account of farming and domestic life.
21st & 28th January 1996
https://archive.org/details/charles-blinchs-stretham-diaries-1860

Henry Gunning: Reminiscences of the University and Town of Cambridge from 1780.
Includes Stourbridge Fair, Jemmy Gordon, Cambridge University visit to Burwell in 1795 and 1801, Robberies from various colleges by Grimshaw and Kidman
February-March 1996
https://archive.org/details/gunnings-reminiscences-of-cambridge

John Titterton: Memories of Peterborough in the 1840s-1860s: people and oddities; includes arrival by stagecoach, Bridge Fair, Gibbet, Elections, Dogs at Burleigh House; Poachers, Burglars
30th April – 14th May 1995
https://archive.org/details/cherry-hinton-chronicle.

James Withers: Poems of the Fordham poet;
Poems My Native Village about Weston Colville, and Grandmother's Tale
28th May & 3rd April 1995
https://archive.org/details/james-withers-native-village-and-grandmothers-tale

A Chimney-sweep boy's account of his life and its hardships, 1820
1994
https://archive.org/details/chimney-sweep-boys-testimoney-1820

Cambridge Market Hill fire: account of the destruction of central Cambridge in 1849
18th October 1994
https://archive.org/details/cambridge-market-hill-fiure

James Bowd: Swavesey Memories, 1889
Includes childhood operation, marriage, death of his daughter, work at Aldreth, return to Swavesey, debt, hardship.
25th September 1994
https://archive.org/details/swavesey-memories-of-james-bowd-1889

Sanitary Conditions in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire 1849-1850.
William Ranger's report on the Public Health of Cambridge 1849: includes housing conditions, slaughter houses together with Morning Chronicle report of 1850 including Falcon Yard, Petty Cury, Witchford squalid dwellings, pig-sties etc
9th October 1994
https://archive.org/details/cambridgeshire-sanitary-conditions-1849-50

P.H. Emerson: A Son of Fens
An account in dialect of harvest work
6th August 1995
https://archive.org/details/emerson-a-son-of-the-fens

John Brown: "Sixty Years' Gleaning from Life's Harvest", 1858: extracts relating to problems of driving sheep from St Ives to Cambridge, becoming a boot maker, taking Fort St George and being cheated by a brewer, insolvency, imprisonment which eased by Oddfellows' collection and experiences of establishing billiards room which opposed by the University.
20 August to 10 September 1995
https://archive.org/details/john-brown-60-years-gleaning

Samuel Parish: A diary of Stretham 1840-1860
Samuel Parish compiled a diary recording odds and ends, mainly deaths and fires, that happened in Stretham between 1840-1860.
10 September 1995
https://archive.org/details/samuel-parishs-stretham-diary-1840-1860

Cuthbert Bede: Whittlesey Mere remembered, 1877
Reminiscences of the drainage of Whittlesey Mere; includes Appold's Pump, an account of what was discovered as the water drained away, of attempting to cross with boards of his feet and the story of a lad trapped in mud whilst bird scaring.
11th October 1995
https://archive.org/details/whittlesey-mere-remembered-by-cuthbert-bede-1877 MPC104

Christmas Presents Past in Poetry
Mike Petty reads poems listing presents available from Cambridge and Wisbech from 1890s
21st December 1977
https://archive.org/details/christmas-presents-in-poetry

Jack Overhill: A Cambridge Christmas
Recollections of his childhood before WWI as Xmas approached: Father's beer and the drunken brothers
December 1994
https://archive.org/details/overhill-christmas-beer-1994-mpc-49

Ghostly Echoes by Mike Petty
A special ‘Cambridgeshire Echoes’ programme which included ‘eye-witness’ accounts of meeting ‘ghosts’ set down in fact or fiction together with body-snatching and other happenings.
Includes: St Guthlac of Crowland; Ghosts of Abbey House Cambridge; Wicken headless coachman; Woodcroft parson; Bodysnatching at Cherry Hinton and Ely; Knocking ghost of Barton; Mepal ghost; Mary Stitt of Stretham meets her dead soldier son; Naomi’s Room, Cambridge
26th December 1995
https://archive.org/details/ghostly-echoes-mike-petty

Pickwick’s Cambridge Scrapbook 1838
Mike Petty reads extracts from Samuel Pickwick’s undiscovered record of his visit to Cambridge in 1838.
A series of 15-minute readings.
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, Arts Programme presented by Mandy Morton, 11th May 1997 to 3rd October 1999

1-10
Samuel Pickwick’s journey by stagecoach from London; his choice of conveyance, the driver, his fellow travellers, the scenes along the route and his arrival in Cambridge.
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbok-1838-pts-1-10
11-19
Pickwick’s first day in Cambridge: a stagecoach accident, his search for an inn, the Hoop Hotel, Jemmy Gordon, the Wrestlers’ Inn where he was robbed, a loan from Henry Gunning, the University Arms, the hospitable Castle Inn and a meeting with Police Constable Flynn
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-11-19
20-28
Pickwick learns of barbers and billiards, the problems of driving sheep from St Ives, Captain Cook and body-snatchers, tigers and Lion Yard, the sisters who communicate by notes to frustrate the spies – and other characters
Uploaded to Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-20-28
A projected canal from Cambridge to London, a washer-woman’s mangle and her daughter’s love of lemonade, the problems of Nutter the water-miller, a trip to Paradise, difficulties of boating to Grantchester and an escaped Peterhouse deer
Uploaded to Internet Archive: https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-pts-35-43
44-53
The Bishop’s Master of Peterhouse, Thomas Gray’s escape, the agony of a sprained ankle, remedies for lameness, fires at Over, Longstanton and Peas Hill, the Corpus Christi golden porter, Addenbrooke and his Hospital who porter of Corpus, Porter who struck gold, the fen beetles and the don who got Darwin on the Beagle – and much more
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-44-53
54-67
Fitzwilliam’s Museum, Constable Flynn’s fights and tales of murders, Dr Okes describes cutting off Lizzie Woodcock’s toes, a Chimney-sweep’s problems with his climbing boys and Cambridge’s celebrates Victoria’s Coronation with a greasy pole
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-54-67

68-73
Victoria's Cambridge Coronation Celebration Committee Confrontations, Plum Puddings and Beer, a fired balloon, Fysh Foord Brown, the adored Duke of Wellington and an odious Duke
Uploaded to Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-65-73

74-84
Wellington's Honorary Degree Chaos, balls and breakfasts; Wellington pub characters, Cambridge Workhouse disruption, Bodysnatching at Ely, Bird – Swann's driver - on snow, Extravagant farmers, Inclosure riots at Lt Thetford
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-74-84
85-95
Incendiarism, threshing machine breaking and Captain Swing; Irish harvest men and the Manea Community, Ely gaol and the murder of a fellow poacher, Cholera and a new river to Littleport immortalised in poetry; Trade unions and shoemakers' strike
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-85-95
98
Nocturnal Activities in a Barnwell Field: The 'University man tried to kiss me', says boy; 'I was responding to the needs of nature': a disputed account of what happened one night in a field off Mill Road. https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-part-98
99-122 missing
115-123
Fires, firemen and buckets with holes in them; Cambridge Market Hill foundry and water supply, Rose Crescent rebuilding, Union Street wrangling,, coffee houses, shops with windows, Cambridge market stalls and stench, Hobson's Conduit & the King's Ditch, the Bull Hotel and the Mortlock dynasty. https://archive https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-115-123
123-130
The Mortlocks: Banker, Mayor, MP, Sailor, Cheater, Apple-seller and Arsonist
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-123-130
131-136
Abington fire, George Downing's marriage, virgin wife, will and College, Trinity College Chapel revolt
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-131-136
137-142
Beverley, an undergraduate, tells of University and Undergraduates' excesses, whipping passers-by from their windows, fights with townsfolk, Fellows' mistresses, prostitution & baby-swapping. Undergraduates refuse to pay tradesmen's bills, tradesmen cheat undergraduates. A Tutor's collection of impure books, concubine and natural children – and more. https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-137-152
143-149
A prostitute's account of the conditions in Cambridge University Spinning House; police account of prostitutes; a prostitute robs a client; the Female Refuge; the harvest of 1838; folk leave fields for work in towns; Chesterton inclosure and a football riot
https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-143-149
150-156
Chesterton's Abbey, Strolling down the chimney at Jesus College to discover a flying kitten, a grinning skeleton and a very dusty library; John Wisken, scullion of Christ's College describes his work; Cambridge Council sells its plate and Grimshaw & Kidman steal more from King's Chapel and other colleges. https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-150-156

157-163
Public hangings for Cambridge College plate theft, Newmarket horse poisoning, Whittlesford burglary and a murderer galvanised. https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-157-163

164-172
Cherry Hinton still and water-drinker, mysterious and robbed graves; Ely elderly and young opium eaters; Witchford turgid water; beer shops, sack thefts and Cambridge 'highfliers', 'nakes', 'croakers' and 'drizzlers'. https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-164-172
173-179
A beggar's letter, a mock murder trial, Henry Pamment's account of life at Barham and Linton, of stone picking, harvest work and scythes and his walk to London to seek his fortune (and fail): https://archive.org/details/pickwicks-cambridge-scrapbook-1838-parts-173-179

This was the last episode to be recorded in 1999.
'Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook' was published in 750 episodes in the Cambridge Weekly News
You can read it all on Internet Archive
https://archive.org/details/PickwicksCambridgeScrapbook1838ByMikePetty._201503

Time Was:
Stories from Cambridgeshire and around the world; compiled by Trevor Littlechild & Mike Petty and broadcast on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire between 1989 and 1991
This was a remarkable series of 45-minute programmes that put International, National and Cambridgeshire news in context and linked them all to the popular music of a specific year
For each programme Trevor Littlechild researched national and international news for a given year and produced a script. I checked for stories reported in Cambridge and Wisbech newspapers that reflected similar issues. Trevor then added music from that particular year. This put a different perspective on both news and music. For example in 1926 the national news was of the General Strike. The Cambridge news was of undergraduates driving railway trains, coming back to College covered in soot. The music was 'Black Bottom'!
I have copies of the scripts.
The 'Time Was' programmes were broadcast as a series of 45-minute programmes on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire between 1989 and 1991. I took cassette recordings of the programmes which I have uploaded to Internet Archive
https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22%20AND%20audio

Time Was 1910
Cambridgeshire stories include: General Election, Suffragette demonstration in Cambridge, strawberries at Wisbech, Death of King, Chatteris man and Japan, Chesterton murder and hanging, first man to fly over Huntingdon, Histon street lights, Addenbrooke's Hospital X-Ray, Church Congress
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1910

Time Was 1911
Mentions of Newmarket, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Girton, Wisbech, Lt Thetford, King's Lynn, Cottenham, Ickleton, Chatteris, Gorefield, Hardwick, Fulbourn and references to the Coronation, aircraft, strikes and tobacco
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1911-mpc-37

Time Was 1913
It includes reference to suffragettes, Home Rule for Ireland, aviation, Ford production, Captain Scott's body discovered, dance
For Cambridgeshire there are references to suffragette fires, fires at Emneth and Swavesey, Cambridge County Borough status, Trade Unions, Riots at Wisbech, balloon, Sutton Bridge dock, Cheshunt College & Eaden Lilley
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1913

Time Was 1915
Includes an account of the Battle of Ypres, Gas, Dardanelles, attack on shipping, Lusitania, Zeppelins, Nurse Edith Cavell, women's role in the war, alcohol abuse, munitions, sport.
There are references to Adelaide, Cambridge, Prickwillow, Gt Shelford, Chatteris, Barrington, Histon, King's Lynn, Lt Downham spies, Ely, Wisbech, March, Chatteris, Thorney, Huntingdon & Ely,
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1915

Time Was 1917
Includes the progress of the War, Ireland, General Election, Submarine warfare, America joins War, Battle of Ypres, Russia and Lenin
For Cambridgeshire there are references to Enlistment Tribunals, women's work, air raids, cost of living, food shortage, news from the Front, Gog battles and explosions
Includes news from Stretham, Cambridge, Ely, Wisbech, Cottenham, Benwick, Soham, Papworth, Gt Eversden, Histon, Cherry Hinton.
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1917

Time Was 1918: Christmas
Includes an account of the Battle of Ypres, Gas, Dardanelles, attack on shipping, Lucitania, Zeppelins, Nurse Edith Cavell, women's role in the war, alcohol abuse, munitions, sport.
There are references to Adelaide, Cambridge, Prickwillow, Gt Shelford, Chatteris, Barrington, Histon, King's Lynn, Lt Downham spies, Ely, Wisbech, March, Chatteris, Thorney, Huntingdon & Ely.
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1918

Time Was 1923:
Includes references to German reparations difficulties, rise of Adolph Hitler, inflation, Baldwin becomes PM, meets new US President Coolidge, General Election, Norfolk farmworkers strike, fashion, divorce allowed, US Ku Klux Klan, marathon dancing , sport, marriage of Duke of York and Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, broadcasts, stage and film
For Cambridgeshire there are references to Haddenham No More War march, war memorials, General election, farmworkers' strike, storm, swimming with mentions of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Wisbech, Tadlow, Wrestlingworth, Farcet, Wilbraham, Manea, Kimbolton, Yelling, Wyton, Fowlmere, Peterborough, Whittlesey
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1923_202205

Time Was 1924
For Cambridgeshire there are references to flooding, railway strike, price of petrol, Stretham Ferry Bridge, General Election, moles, Fascists, Libraries, Undergraduate rags, cars, buses, fruit,
Includes news from Cambridge, March, Wisbech, Whittlesey, Cottenham
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1924

Time Was 1926
Cambridgeshire stories include: strikes at Shepreth, March, Chatteris, Wisbech & Peterborough; Cambridge electric power station; Disarmament Pilgrimage, Jack Hobbs
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1926

Time Was 1928
Includes Stalin in Russia, Votes for women over 21
Cambridgeshire stories include Wisbech indoor shopping centre & slums, Grantchester Watermill burnt down, Wisbech distillery
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1928

Time Was 1930
Cambridgeshire stories include: Manea poultry in former Hospital, potatoes, rotting fruit, Babraham camel ride, Arbury Road Baptist Church foundation, Wisbech birth control & disarmament, Thorney new road, Cambridge University Landladies, King's College murder, bridge over Old Bedford
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1930

Time Was 1931
Cambridgeshire stories include: Oswald Moseley in Cambridge, Sutton Bridge smallholder, Emneth farmer, dredger does work of 30 men, Midsummer Fair banned, General Election, German ambassador visits Cambridge, Baden Powell Honorary Degree, Pondersbridge Vicar dies in fire, Ghandi visit, Hiam resigns from Sugar Beet board, Lode Labour Hall, Whittlesey ammunition cache, floodlights at Crowland, train telephones, Eastern Counties red buses, Thorney Toll bridge, Murkett's new garage, earthquake at Wisbech, March and Gorefield, first woman Alderman, first woman Godmanchester councillor, Chivers film, Speedway, sheep at King's College
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1931

Time Was 1932
Includes references to conflict in Japan and India, German reparation problems, US President Roosevelt, Lindberg kidnapping, Hitler success in German, UK unemployment, Free Trade, whipping children, Rector of Stiffkey, Russia, Stratford Memorial Theatre, BBC new Portland Place home, films, sport, Mersey Tunnel and Lambeth Bridge
For Cambridgeshire there are references to gold sales, farm wages, Duxford explosion, unemployment, Guides 21st birthday, Shire Hall, Christchurch
Places include Cambridge, Wisbech, Peterborough, Longstanton
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1932

Time Was 1933
Includes rise of Hitler in German, President Roosevelt in USA, unemployment, Moseley's Blackshirts, Oxford Union debate, fashion
For Cambridgeshire there are references to Cambridge expansion, Norris Museum, unemployment, Cinema protest, skating
Includes news from Cambridge, St Ives, Willingham, Littleport, Cherry Hinton, Shudy Camps, Pampisford, Brampton, Saffron Walden, Papworth
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1933

Time Was 1938
Cambridgeshire stories include: Cambridge new Synagogue, Meldreth school battle, Sir Fred Hiam burial, Circus man Bertram Mills stands as MP for Isle, Basque refugees, gas masks assembled at Ely, blackout exercise, Marshalls aerodrome opening, planes crash at Stradishall, University prepares for war, air-raid trenches, undergrad bonfire celebrations, Wandlebury preservation, train crashes into horses at Shippea Hill, water at Ramsey, Gypsy Smith wedding, sea-going boat journeys from Wisbech to Peterborough, Queen visits Ely Cathedral, Gransden plane crash, billiards at Cambridge, seal shot at Over, Neville Chamberlain visits Cambridge
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1938

Time Was 1939
Includes Steeple Morden Hurricane crash, Huntingdon air-raid shelters, Churchill at Cambridge Corn Exchange, Isle grassland ploughed up, evacuees at Ickleton and Haddenham, Little Thetford man & escaped barrage balloon, gas masks
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1939

Time Was 1940 Easter
Mentions of Linton, Fen Ditton, Bassingbourn, Ely, Sutton, Cambridge, Peterborough, Histon, Spalding, Wisbech, Burwell, Wicken
Uploaded to Internet Archive https://archive.org/details/time-was-1940-easter-mpc-37

Time Was 1941
It features news of the War, including numerous air raids with mentions of bombs on Cambridge, Chatteris, Doddington, Whittlesey, Benwick, Wisbech, Gorefield, March, Thorney, Littleport, Ely, Newton, Huntingdon, Christchurch with machine-gunning at Lt Thetford and evacuees at Cheveley
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1941

Time Was 1942
Mentions of Burwell, Wisbech, Cambridge, Ely, Needingworth, Elm, Oakington with reference to air raids, fall of Singapore and arrival of the American
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1942

Time Was 1943
Cambridgeshire stories include: Cambridge parade in celebration of Russia, Anglo-Polish Society, Witchford airfield, Japanese prisoners, rationing at Wisbech and Ely, war work, Wings for Victory campaigns, Wisbech town planning, Midsummer Fair, American party at Hinxton school
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1943

Time Was 1945: D-Day to VE Day
Includes references to D-Day advances, the Flying Bombs and VI, Liberation of Paris, Concentration Camps, German surrender, Glenn Miller death, Berlin capture, German Surrender, VE Celebrations, Home Guard stand-down,
Locally there are mentions to Montgomery & returning evacuees in Ely, Madingley Cemetery, Soham Ammunition Train explosion, Whittlesford, Fordham, March, Flying Bombs, Chatteris, Tips End, Haddenham, St Ives, HMS Walpole, PoWs, Prickwillow, Wisbech Littleport, Friday Bridge
https://archive.org/details/time-was-ve-day

Time Was 1945: VE-VJ
This one-hour programme reports news of the period from the ending of the War in Europe to the final victory against Japan and is intermixed with music of that time
It includes the discovery of Concentration Camps, dropping of the Atom Bombs on Japan, Burma and the return of the Cambridgeshire Regiment following their imprisonment following the fall of Singapore.
There are references to Cambridge, Time Was Ely, Wisbech, Stretham, Guyhirn, Murrow, Parson Drove, Tholomas Drove, Soham, Histon, Saffron Walden, Comberton and Gt Abington.
https://archive.org/details/ve-to-vj-time-was.-mpc-02

Time Was 1946
Cambridgeshire stories include: Isle of Ely fears County Council expansion plans; Cambridgeshire Regiment Memorial Ely Cathedral, Honorary Freedom of Cambridge and talk of their conditions in captivity, Wisbech pre-fabs, Cambridge Nissen huts, Walpole Highway man no longer 'missing' (sadly), Waterbeach RAF waste food, bananas at Wisbech, Comberton egg-fight, PoWs doing British farm jobs, G.I. brides, Victory Day rallies, bigamous weddings
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1946_202205

Time Was 1947
Includes references to coal nationalisation, strikes, fuel shortages, flooding, fashion, Princess Elizabeth & Philip wedding, Palestine, Poland, Russian Atom bomb, divorce
For Cambridgeshire there are references to the freeze & flood, Wisbech Museum's Great Expectations, rationing, tank collision, Trinity College celebrations, Cambridge expansion, returning troops, Poles, rail accident involving mustard gas bombs, radio broadcasts
Mentions of Cambridge, Willingham Wisbech, Hemingford Abbots, Boxworth, Peterborough, Trumpington, Shelford, Melbourn, Fen Drayton, Emneth, Sawston
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1947

Time Was 1949
Includes references to China and escape of HMS Amethyst, NATO, Berlin, first jet planes, gas nationalisation, rationing ends, devaluation, floodlights return, first launderette, Council of Europe, Modern art, Television expansion, sport
There are references to Elm ghosts, Over land acquisition, Upwood plane crash, Isleham bomber crash, Marshland Communists, Pidley electricity, Whittlesford 'first' OAP club. Wisbech pageant, Pye demonstrate colour television, Cambridge
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1949

Time Was 1953
Cambridgeshire stories include: Wisbech port, demolition Cambridge Assize Courts & Market Fountain, Addenbrooke's Hospital X-rays, Wisbech man in Korea, mortar boards abolished, President Tito visits University Library & Duxford. Coronation celebrations at Linton, Chatteris, Whittlesey, Manea, Wisbech, March, Ramsey, Cambridge, Guyhirn, Quy, St Ives, Emneth, Littleport and Ely, Americans at Newmarket, King Hussain of Jordan visits Bourn, East Coast floods, Queen Mother visits Cambridge, Hack Hobbs knighted, Greek plays, Rex cinema
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1953

Time Was 1953: Coronation
This programme concentrates on the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II with contemporary wireless reports and details of celebrations in Cambridgeshire
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1953-coronation

Time Was 1955
Includes immigration, strikes, wage settlements, Churchill retires as PM and replaced by Eden, Burgess and MacLean, cars, planes, housing, Princess Margaret, Khrushchev in Russia, Footlights Revue
For Cambridgeshire there are references to Wimpole Hall Hospital, fen skating, Wisbech port, Foxton railway station, Queen Edith's School, Belisha Beacons, plane crashes at Thorney and Landbeach, Heydon church rebuilding, General Election, Mustard Gas explosion at Lord's Bridge & George Medal, 'Have a Go' at Papworth, Wisbech Odeon Cinema, Cambridge Library Centenary
Includes news from Cambridge, Wimpole, Wisbech, Christchurch, Mildenhall, Ely, Fulbourn
https://archive.org/details/time-was-1955

The Cambridgeshire Collection and Mike Petty
Broadcasts featuring the Librarian of the Cambridgeshire Collection and its activities

Birthday Honours
Mike Petty, Librarian of Cambridgeshire Collection interviewed with his choice of music
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 18.6.1982
https://archive.org/details/petty-birthday-honours-1982

Images of Cambridge
Mike Petty reflects on the changes in Cambridge since 1900 as depicted in his book 'Images of Cambridge'; a talk with Gerald Maine
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 25th September 1994
https://archive.org/details/images-of-cambridge

Open University Launch of dissertations on CD Rom at Cambridgeshire Collection
Sue Oosthuizen and Mike Petty
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, 8th August 1996
and
George Stace: Exhibition of scrapbooks of Mayor of Cambridge George Stace in Cambridgeshire Collection
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 8th August 1996
https://archive.org/details/mpc-03-b-open-university-cdr

Record collector: Mike Petty speaks of his work at the Cambridgeshire Collection and his personal record collection
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 5th June 1993
https://archive.org/details/mpc-69a-mike-petty-record-collector-5-jun-199

Soundings - Cambridgeshire Collection
Mike Petty interviewed by Paul Cobley; starts in former library Wheeler Street, moves to new Lion Yard Library; detailed discussion of the work of the Cambridgeshire Collection
Radio Cambridgeshire, February 1983
https://archive.org/details/cambridgeshire-collection-soundings.-mpc-52

Speaking Volumes
Mike Petty, Librarian of the Cambridgeshire Collection, shares with Christopher South some extracts from publications. Includes: newspaper report of children starved to death in Kirtling in 1991; Ryder Haggard's description of cottages at Eltisley in 1901; David Cox of Wardy Hill poem; Catherine Parson's account of witches at Horseheath in 1914; a child's account of a visit to Stretham Old Engine 1991; Evidence to Child Labour Gang enquiry of 1867 and description of Swavesey blacksmith in 1920s
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 7th July 1991
https://archive.org/details/speaking-volumes.-1991-mike-petty

Star People: Mike Petty,
Mike Petty, Librarian of the Cambridgeshire Collection discusses his work and makes a selection of music which includes the Toll House Band
Star Radio, 5th November 2006
https://archive.org/details/star-people-mike-petty-nov-2006

A week in the life
Mike Petty of the Cambridgeshire Collection interviewed with Richard Spendlove about activities in the week 15-21 February 1991
Includes: work of the Cambridgeshire Collection, relationship with Farmland Museum, Folk Museum, Stretham Engine, Footpath maps, Work with schools, Domesday Book launch, Newspaper articles, Talks together with aspects of personal life in Stretham. Edited to remove music
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 22nd Feb 1991
https://archive.org/details/a-week-in-the-life-mike-petty.-1991.-mpc-76

Fen Floods of 1947

The Battle of the Banks: the story of the 1947 floods.
B.B.C. Home Service 15th March 1957
Narrator Andrew Faulds with voices of W.E. Doran (Chief Engineer of Great Ouse River Board), M. Nixon (Chief Engineer of Trent River Board), S. Amyes (Eastern Daily Press), B.W. Abbott of Runcton Holme, W. Chapman of Ely, D.C. Adams & C. Haddow of Over, C Everett of Hilgay, Mr Burton of Ten Mile Bank, Mrs V. Harlow of Over, Mr & Mrs Catlin of Ten Mile Bank, L.E. Dunnett. Mr & Mrs Porter and F. Starling of Southery
https://archive.org/details/battle-of-the-banks-1947-floods.-bbc-1957-mpc-22

The Fen Floods of 1947: a radio documentary by Lester Millbank
Produced by Lester Millbank & Mike Petty
Broadcast BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, 16th March 1997
Interviews with some of the folk who worked to fight the flood and were affected by it
https://archive.org/details/great-flood-of-1947-lester-milbank-1997

Making History: The 1947 Floods
BBC Radio Four, 31st October 2006
Nick Baker and the team answer listeners' historical queries and celebrate the way in which we all 'make' history. A Making History listener recalls the floods on March 1947 in Nottinghamshire and asks why these are less well remembered than other natural, climatic events such as the 1963 winter or the 1953 East Coast Floods? Making History turned to the expertise of meteorologist Barry Grommet and the Cambridgeshire historian Mike Petty, who has researched the impact of the floods in badly affected Fens.
https://archive.org/details/1947-floods-making-history-oct-2006

Soundings: 1947 floods documentary by Les Woodland
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, November 1995
This radio documentary covered three floods; this section dealt with those of 1947
It featured Mike Petty;, Albert Cox; Ida Allen, Witchford; Arthur Hawkins on Earith Win Cockle on evacuation, Hillrow, Haddenham, Wilf Papworth on cattle to hangars, Mepal, Arthur Hawkins, Hillrow, Haddenham; Southery road
https://archive.org/details/mpc-32a-soundings-1947-flood.-1995

Off the Beaten Track
A series of programmes in which Lester Millbank and Mike Petty visited various communities and spoke to residents about aspects of their locality
Broadcast on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. Uploaded to Internet Archive

Boxworth: Off the Beaten Track. April 1992
People and topics covered: Christopher Parish, surgeon at Papworth and wife Joan at Church Farm & museum, Joan Parish, Ken Collist, Chairman of Parish Meeting, Joan Glasscock, daughter of gamekeeper to Douglas Crossman who had last shoot; Joyce and Arthur, live on Green, Bill Smith met wife at school; 20 setts of badgers
Mike Petty: story of highway robbery, opium riots, Joshua Hudson
https://archive.org/details/boxworth-off-the-beaten-track-1992.._202204

Burwell: Off the Beaten Track. April 1992
The first programme, looking at characters and tales of Cambridgeshire villages. Includes:
Ernie Palmer: Feast Day fights between North St & High Street; railway; first motor car, Dr Ennion Dick Abbott at Isaacson's a royal resting place for King on journey to Ely; home Dr Ennion; he cleans and restores paintings; Shops, Youth club; 1851 riots; John Clark on Dorothy Grainger, photographer who photographed the station, clunch pits and village life; Hurrell's butchers, Peter Curtis; Puppet show fire; Jim Neal, Burwell & District Bus Preservation Society, Eversden service started when Mansfield's son Horace started courting at Kingston; Line Triangle, designs buses for Queen of the Netherlands; Nick-names – Paul Hawes; windmill restoration, Museum to open in John Wisbey barn
https://archive.org/details/burwell-off-the-beaten-track-1992._202204

Ely: Off the Beaten Track, April 1992
Includes: Ely Cathedral Precentor; verger, Derek Butler; Sue Ryder Home at Bishop's Place; Suzi Moore chair of appeal; Hubert Ward, King's School; Ely Register Office at Old Gaol – Mike Petty as Thomas South, Littleport Rioter; Old Fire Engine House – Ann Jarman; Peck's ironmongers; Tower Hospital
https://archive.org/details/ely-off-the-beaten-track_202205

Pampisford: Off the Beaten Track, April 1992
Includes: Olive Mayo, village historian, copies pictures; Evans' Leather factory; Geraldine Stott lace maker & yoga class; Tony Jenkins, AI Cambridge – Analytical Instruments, makes bomb detectors etc; Solo Park, recyclings building materials; Pampisford Hall, Arabella Finalder; Dennis Kirkman, ferrets at Pampisford Hall; Hudson's Brewery; Peter Fordice animal sanctuary
https://archive.org/details/pampisford-off-the-beaten-track-mpc-26

St Ives: Off the Beaten Track, April 1992
Includes: Tim O'Brien, H.J. Jones marina; Ruth & John Harrison, basket makers; Pat Meakin, journalist CEN on bridge and history; Cattle Market – Joe Johnson, auctioneer at closure; fair; Donald Mcalhanger, Free Church minister; Catholic Church, Needingworth Road; Bob Burn Murdoch, Norris Museum; Freddie Fable, describes plane crashing into church steeple, 23 March 1918
https://archive.org/details/st-ives-off-the-beaten-track-1992.-mpc-94

Willingham: Off the Beaten Track, April 1992
Includes interviews with Alan Fawcett on wall paintings in church; Polly Fawcett on church restoration appeal; Wivlingham singers, Fruit farmer; Own Garner on Percheron heavy horses, David Hunt restores pianos; Stan Smith with tales of character, step-dancing on pub table; Mike Petty on how chose people to interview

Wisbech: Off the Beaten Track, 1992
Includes the Bowling Green Tap ghost; Peter Cave on Thomas Clarkson, cholera and opium-taking; Peggy Mason on Wisbech Castle; Ivan Lane on canning at Smedley's and Heywood Foods; Andrew Ingram on the Wisbech & Upwell Tramway; Angle Theatre; David Rayner on Lilian Ream the photographer; James England on roses; Peckover House.
https://archive.org/details/wisbech-off-the-beaten-track-1992

Other Recordings:

Costing the earth
Mark Whitaker considers various rivers
BBC R4, 4th May 1993
Includes Fens; Whittlesey mere lands and Holme Fen, land eroding; farmer says can see sterile clay beneath the peat; why would people farm land in hollow; spring-time blows; fen blow means soil in bags of sugar – Aldreth; Mill Leach, Haddock, Waddelow
Mike Petty on proposed development at Westmere; account of 1947 flood by Bill Leach
Lindsey Mason, farmer, can continue to farm fen
https://archive.org/details/costing-the-earth.-1993-mpc-107

Dr Dimock of Stretham and the Wisbech Riots, 1913
Mike Petty recounts story of Dr Dimock of Stretham and the riots at Wisbech that followed his death
Brief summary: It all started with the National Insurance Act of 1911. For the first time people paid into a scheme which gave them some protection against sickness and unemployment. It was the beginning of the Welfare State.
BBC Radio 4. 'Making History'. 31 October 2006
https://archive.org/details/wisbech-riots-mpc-116

Ol's war
Letters of Oliver Hopkin of Wilburton recounting his life in the trenches at the Battle of the Somme. Oliver Hopkin's letters home were transcribed and published by Alf Peacock as 'A Rendezvous with Death' in Gun Fire, an occasional journal produced by the Western Front Association in 1986
https://archive.org/details/ols-war-letters-from-the-battle-of-the-somme-by-oliver-hopkin-of-wilburton.-mpc-73b

Rendy, Dot and Rex: Cambridge dance band days
Produced by Jim Moore.
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 31 Aug 1998.
Note: memories of Rendezvous, Dorothy and Rex ballrooms along with Embassy, Guildhall and other places where dances held. Mentions Quinquajinca Orchestra, St John's May Ball (26.35), Mike Richardson (35.22), Drill Hall dancing (37.04), Christ's Pieces band stand dances 38.10:
Voices include Millie Barraclough on meeting an American, Andy Fisher, manager of Carpet Shop, Ena Williams; also Mike Petty
https://archive.org/details/rendy-dot-and-rex-1998

Rural lives
Radio documentary by Les Woodland about child labour in fens, past and present; based on Inquiry into Labour Gangs
Produced by Les Woodland with Mike Petty
BBC Radio 4, August 1988
https://archive.org/details/fenland-child-labour-gangs-les-woodland-mpc-59

Stretham's Headless Dinosaur:
Mike Petty describes the discovery of a Pliosaur at Stretham in 1952; with Lester Millbank;
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire 25th July 1997
https://archive.org/details/strethams-headless-dinosaur

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